

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I access the National Guard?

Contact the Montana DES Division in Helena at 841-3911 (24-hour number) for possible guard assistance. Requests made to other sources, including the Governor's Office, will only result in the delay of dispatching the requested resource. DES personnel can provide information to help you determine if the Guard is the best solution to your problem. Sometimes, alternative solutions are more appropriate, feasible and less costly.

2. If an emergency is declared, does the 2 mil levy have to be passed?

No. A jurisdiction has the authority to levy up to 2 mils to pay for emergency/disaster related expenses. The full 2 mils must be levied when requesting a Gubernatorial Declaration and monetary assistance from the Governor's Emergency and Disaster Fund. A request for a Presidential Declaration does not require levying the full 2 mils at the onset. However, it may be necessary to levy the 2 mils at a later date to cover the jurisdiction's portion of the required match.

3. How do I contact the American Red Cross?

If there is a Red Cross Chapter in your area, contact them directly for assistance. If not, contact the Montana Coordinating Chapter in Great Falls at 727-2212 (24-hour phone number).

4. How do I contact a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team?

Debriefings are becoming more and more of a practice to help responders and victims deal with the stress from abnormal situations. Rapid intervention of C.I.S.D. teams is essential if they are to benefit responders and victims. Consult with a mental health professional during each situation to determine whether or not a C.I.S.D. team may be necessary. If so, contact the Montana DES office at 841-3911; they have an inventory of the teams in the state and can provide you with a contact.

5. Is recordkeeping really necessary?

Local government sometimes learns too late of the importance of documentation and is unable to recoup some of their disaster related expenses. Montana DES developed Tab C to assist you with preliminary disaster recordkeeping. Refer to Tab H, "Documenting Disaster Handbook", for a complete review of the necessary final documentation.

6. What are the contents of a declaration?

Refer to the Legal Authorities section, (Tab I), Title 10, Chapter 3 and Part 404. Sample declaration resolutions are found in Tab F, Attachments 1 - 5.

7. What authority does the Chief Elected Official have in the event of an emergency or disaster?

If a declaration is completed at the onset of an emergency or disaster, the CEO has certain additional powers not normally within his/her authority. Reference the Legal Authorities Manual found in Tab I, specifically Title 10, Chapter 3 and Part 406.

8. What costs are eligible for reimbursement under a state declaration?

Reference the "Handbook for Applicants" found in Tab G.

9. What is the responsibility of the Chief Elected Official during an emergency or disaster?

Work closely with your Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, refer to the Legal Authorities Manual found in Tab I and refer to the CEO Survival Checklist found in Tab B.

11. What is the difference between a Secretary of Agriculture disaster declaration and the ASCS programs?

A secretarial designation makes low interest loans available to producers through the Farmers Home Administration and initiates the availability of certain IRS tax considerations. If the Secretary finds it necessary to involve the Small Business Administration, low interest loans are made available to small businesses economically affected by the disaster. On the other hand, various ASCS programs are available to producers without obtaining a secretarial designation. It is important to stay in close contact with the local ASCS office in the event of any potential emergency or disaster.